

The General Assembly

In addition to the reports already published, the following reports were adopted by the Assembly which we did not have space for last week:

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Wednesday night session was given to Foreign Missions. Addresses were made by four returned missionaries, Rev. Lowry Davis, from China; Rev. R. E. Fulton, from Japan; Rev. W. F. Bull and Rev. C. H. Pratt, from Korea. These were followed by an address by Rev. Henri Anet, a representative of the Belgian Protestant Church.

The following report was presented by the Standing Committee on Foreign Missions, and was adopted:

Report of the Foreign Mission Committee.

Never has the divine blessing upon our work been more marked than during the past year. The number of additions reported from all our fields is 5,256. This is 1,488 more than the number reported last year, and 1,197 more than the largest number received in any previous year.

The Endowment Funds increased from \$274,376 to \$299,303, the Special Annuity Fund from \$75,170 to \$88,647.

With the exception of 1913, the year of the great debt-paying effort, this last year has broken all records both in receipts, from all sources, which total \$586,544, against \$534,682 the year before, an increase of \$51,862, and in gifts from living donors, which total \$570,856, against \$527,665 the year before, an increase of \$43,191.

In this connection it gives us pleasure to note the increase of gifts from Women's Societies from \$90,861 last year to \$105,383 this year.

Ten years' growth:

	1906.	1916.
Foreign workers...	206	377
Native workers....	293	894
Out-stations, places of regular meeting	432	1,211
Organized churches	39	160
Communicants	10,824	38,169
Added on confession	2,182	5,256
Christian constituency	27,531	76,178
Sabbath schools....	92	884
Sunday-school membership	5,282	60,550
Schools	51	565
Students	3,471	24,004
Income from native sources	\$14,320	\$122,332
Native students for the ministry	51	205

Though the committee have sent out twenty-one new missionaries during the past year, the losses by death and returns on account of sickness have been practically equal to this number, leaving no actual gain.

The calls for reinforcements which come from the fields indicate the following as the minimum need:

Africa—Three evangelists, two physicians, one nurse, one man for educational work.

Brazil—Eight evangelists, one teacher for theological school.

Cuba—One evangelist, one lady teacher.

China—Four evangelists, nine teachers, one physician, one nurse.

Japan—Twelve evangelists, nine single women.

Korea—Most earnestly calls for three physicians.

A total of fifty-six workers.

These are imperatively needed if we are to maintain the work as it now stands.

We would call attention to a new method of missionary propaganda which has been used in Japan effectively, namely, the publication in the secular press of articles on the fundamental topics of Christianity. These have appeared in fourteen of the prominent daily papers of Tokio, thus disseminating the gospel to many thousands who had never entered a Christian church.

The success of this effort has been such as to justify its recommendation to the serious thought of all our missions who might find it feasible.

We would call attention to the mission study text-books for the year

1917-1918, which are "An African Trail," by Miss Jean K. MacKenzie, recommended for classes composed exclusively of ladies; "The Lure of Africa," by C. H. Patton, recommended especially for mixed classes and for young people generally; and "African Adventures," also by Miss MacKenzie, for children.

Also to the sets of missionary maps of our own work, and illustrated lectures on our fields available on application to the committee.

The seven-year plan of missionary education in the Sabbath schools, by which the schools are asked to study the work in one country each year, and to support that work by prayers and gifts. The committee has prepared attractive programs for this study, which are available on application.

In three or four cycles of seven years' use of this plan, there should be produced a new generation of church members intelligently informed about the work, and actively supporting it.

We note with interest that the first year of recognized Christian Endeavor work among our young people has been marked by the assignment to them for support of Dr. and Mrs. Stixrud, of the African force, and that the indications are that they will soon be asking for others.

Due to the fact that there seems to be a misunderstanding on the part of some as to the percentage cost of the administration of Foreign Mission funds, we recommend that in future the Executive Committee exercise care to make it clear in all reports and statements regarding percentage cost of administration that such cost does not include certain expenditures which would properly be designated as "operating expenses."

The effect of war on international business, and the increased cost of living have made necessary increased appropriations.

We call attention to the report of the Systematic Benevolence Committee, wherein they state that they have visited the office at Nashville and carefully considered its business management, methods and the character of its investments, and commend the economy and efficiency manifest in all departments.

Your committee have examined the minutes of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions, reports that it has carefully read all the minutes of the year and recommends their approval as written.

The Assembly would impress upon our people the fact that while contributions from living donors have steadily grown in recent years, yet this increase has not been proportionate to the increase of our Church membership, nor has it served to meet the unavoidable increase in the cost of the work.

In view of this we recommend:

(1) The vigorous prosecution of missionary education through study classes and the seven-year plan in the Sabbath school, and the wider use of the facilities of the educational secretary.

(2) We urge upon churches, auxiliary organizations and individuals that they, wherever practicable, assume an obligation for some definite part of the foreign missionary work, giving the preference to the work already undertaken.

(3) The Assembly appoints the last two weeks in the month of January as a Foreign Mission season of prayer, preaching and self-denial.

(4) We recommend the election to the Executive Committee for a term of three years the following: Rev. C. E. Diehl, Rev. A. S. Johnson, Rev. L. E. McNair, Messrs. W. A. Dale, A. D. Mason and J. P. McCallie.

(5) We recommend for election for a term of three years of the following: Rev. S. H. Chester, secretary of foreign correspondence and candidates, and editor; Rev. H. F. Williams, field secretary; Rev. J. I. Armstrong, educational secretary. Also the election of Rev. C. H. Pratt as field secretary. And that the Assembly accept with appreciation the generous offer of the Laymen's Missionary Movement to be responsible for Mr. Pratt's entire salary.

(6) That \$732,600 be apportioned to the cause of Foreign Missions for the year 1918-1919.

(7) The Assembly heartily affirms its acceptance of the responsibility undertaken by the Birmingham Assembly of 1907 to give annually one million dollars and to send a sufficient number of missionaries adequately to offer the gospel to the thirty million unevangelized people committed exclusively to our care, and hereby summons the whole Church to an immediate and vigorous advance to achieve our task.

(8) The Assembly has heard with deep interest and sympathy the address of Rev. Henri Anet, delegate of the Belgian and French Huguenots to the American Protestant churches, and expresses not only its appreciation of his words in behalf of our distressed brethren in the war-zone, but also takes this opportunity to express its gratitude for his generous and oft-repeated service to our missionaries on the Congo. The Assembly wishes him God-speed in his efforts to solicit aid for the Protestant churches of Belgium and France.

W. R. Dobyns, Chairman.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES.

Your committee would report that there have come into our hands reports from the Board of Trustees of the following seminaries: Austin, Clarksville, Columbia, Louisville and Union; and we have carefully considered the same.

Austin Seminary has a total endowment of about \$81,000.00. The building and grounds are estimated to be worth \$100,000.00, with a total income of \$8,950.00. Total expenditure of \$16,565.00. Number of students, twenty-one. We note with regret that Dr. Neal L. Anderson has declined the call to the presidency of the seminary, because of financial conditions in which he found the affairs of the institution when he reached Austin last September, and which he felt he was unable to remedy on account of circumstances connected with the general educational interests of the Synod of Texas. It is the prayer of the Assembly that conditions in this school of the prophets may be so adjusted as to insure its usefulness to the Church.

The report of Louisville Seminary is very gratifying. The number of students enrolled, sixty-five. The permanent resources are \$772,055.40; total value of land and buildings, \$228,286.29; productive endowment, General Endowment Fund, \$295,896.71; Professorship Endowment Fund, \$75,000.00; Scholarship Endowment Fund, \$60,362.50; library, \$3,002.10; other endowments, \$109,507.80. Total income for the year, \$23,230.85; expenditures, \$35,749.86.

We note that at the beginning of the session, 1916-1917, the four departments, Religious Education, Missions, Christian Ethics and Christian Sociology, which had been hitherto elective, have been incorporated in the regular curriculum—thereby adding much to the value of the course of study.

We note further that proper steps have been taken to amend the charter and constitution for admitting the Synod of Appalachia into association with the present controlling Synods in the administration of the seminary.

We recommend that the Assembly approve this action.

We would express appreciation of the valuable services Louisville Seminary is rendering our Church.

We find from the report of the Divinity School of Southwestern Presbyterian University that there were enrolled twenty students, and that the same high grade of work is maintained that has characterized this institution since its beginning.

We feel that the resignation of Dr. J. R. Dobyns as president is a great loss, but we are glad to note that since January 1st Dr. George Lang has been acting president. The death of Dr. Robert Price, who has been an instructor from the organization of the Divinity School is cause of great sorrow, not only in this institution of his affectionate devotion, but also in the heart of the entire Church.

We believe that in the life of this school God has supplied a special need of our great Church, and we would invoke His guiding hand in making this school a still greater blessing in the future.

Columbia Seminary has come into a

new day. The seminary has had one of the very best years, in many respects, in all its history, and the outlook for the coming year is brighter than in all the long years of its existence.

The total endowment of the seminary is \$254,593.42. The estimated value of grounds and buildings is \$150,000.00. There has been added to the endowment during the year \$41,860.00. The income for the past year from all sources has been \$21,494.35. The total expenditures, \$24,844.56. The number of students enrolled, sixty. Judging by its able faculty, its broad and practical course of study, and the standing and efficiency of its alumni we are persuaded that the work done by this historic institution is second to none.

Union Seminary has maintained its usual high standard throughout the year, with a large enrollment of 107 students. There has been a net addition, in cash, to the permanent fund of \$19,451.00 during the past year.

It is of special interest that a decided step forward has been taken in the department of Sunday-school work. A generous friend has offered \$100,000.00 for the erection, equipment and maintenance of a modern Sunday-school building, where laboratory work will be done the year round, this offer was made on condition that other friends will give the same amount by the end of the year; of which \$60,000.00 shall be for the endowment of a professor of pedagogy, Sunday-school work, etc. Eighty thousand of this has been promised, leaving only a balance of \$20,000.00 to be raised by December 31, 1917. The value of this to the Church can scarcely be estimated, for which we are profoundly thankful to God.

The seminary has added a course of advanced studies leading to the degree of Doctor of Divinity. This degree is conferred in recognition of proved attainments and eminent scholarship. This action we deem most commendable.

Arrangements have been made for a mid-winter course for pastors and missionaries who may desire to freshen up on theological questions of living interest, and on modern methods of practical work. For this the seminary deserves the grateful appreciation of the Church.

Recommendations:

(1) That we are grateful to the Great Head of the Church for His signal blessing upon these schools of the prophets.

(2) That we commend these institutions to the prayers, and increased liberality of all our people.

(3) That we pray the Lord of the harvest may greatly increase the number of young men entering these institutions from year to year.

J. G. Patton, Chairman.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND MINISTERIAL RELIEF.

Your Standing Committee on Christian Education and Ministerial Relief would respectfully report as follows:

There have been placed in our hands the minutes of the Executive Committee and the annual report of that body; the report of the Mountain Retreat Association; the third annual report of the General Assembly's Training School for Lay Workers; overtures 63 and 82; and an official notification from the Synod of Alabama of its nomination of Rev. R. H. McCaslin, D. D., for membership on the Assembly's Permanent Advisory Committee on Education, with Rev. S. E. Hodges as his alternate.

We find the minutes of the Executive Committee carefully kept, and from their admirably prepared report we gather the following important and interesting facts:

(1) At present there is in our Church but one candidate for the ministry for every 712 members. While this is not so small a ratio as existed in the year 1881, when there was one candidate for every 846 members, it is not so large as the ratio of 1893, when there was one for every 441 members of the Church—it is a distressingly small ratio when we consider the pressing need of more ministers for our pastoral, evangelistic and missionary work.

(2) Three hundred and six of these candidates have received loans from the Executive Committee during the past year in a total of \$30,400.00. Of those so assisted 152 were in theological seminaries; 131 in colleges; 2 were pursuing medical studies, and 17 were in training schools.

(3) The committee has assisted